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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, in excess of those initially proposed in the programme budget for 2002-2003. In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions. The additional requirements entailed by the Council resolutions and decisions are described below.

3. With regard to additional conference-servicing requirements, in each relevant case the Council was informed of the full cost of the additional services to be provided and that provisions had been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, not only for meetings already programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings or extensions of meetings that might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. On that basis, it was indicated to the Council that no additional resources would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 as a result of the Council's resolutions and decisions.

4. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999

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(A/54/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2001 to be financed from the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 are provided in the annex to the present report.

Additional requirements entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council

Decisions 2001/218, 2001/292 and 2001/293

United Nations Forum on Forests

5. In paragraph 9.66 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 9)), the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that, at the time of preparation of the initial proposals, it was not possible to assess definitive resource requirements for the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, since decisions on the programme of work, the location of the secretariat and secondment of staff were yet to be taken during the Forum's session in 2001. The Forum, at its organizational session in February 2001, decided to locate its secretariat at United Nations Headquarters in New York. At its first session, in June 2001, the Forum further decided to adopt its multi-year programme of work for the period 2001-2005.

6. In its decisions 2001/218 of 3 May 2001 and 2001/292 and 2001/293 of 26 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, taking into account the decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its organizational session in February 2001 and its first session in June 2001:

(a) Decided that the first and fifth substantive sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests would be held in New York, that two of the three intervening sessions would be held in Geneva and one in San Jose, Costa Rica, and that any ministerial segment to be convened during the intervening period would be convened during the session held in San Jose;

(b) Decided that the first high-level ministerial segment of the United Nations Forum on Forests would be held during its second session;

(c) Welcomed with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Costa Rica to host the second session of the Forum in San Jose from 4 to 15 March 2002;

(d) Took note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its first session.

7. A statement of the programme budget implications of the decision of the Forum on the multi-year programme of work was submitted to the Forum at its first session (E/CN.18/2001/L.4) and relates to sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, 9, Economic and social affairs, 27D, Office of Central Support Services, 32, Staff assessment and Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

8. The programme of work under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 included only a reference to outputs related to servicing the Forum. Below is the narrative for the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, external factors and additional outputs derived from the multi-year programme of work adopted by the Forum and endorsed by the Council. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, this narrative will be incorporated into the final version of the programme of work of section 9 of the programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Table 9.13
Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

Objective: To provide for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, to facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management; to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner, and to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests with the view to strengthening long-term political commitment, based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) process.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Foster international cooperation in sustainable forest management and development among Member States, including coordination between North and South and public and private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels.	(a) The number of coordination and cooperation activities implemented on mutually agreed actions on forests and the fostering of synergies.
(b) Facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, as well as other actions, which may be agreed upon.	(b) Adoption and implementation of the Plan of Action, including the meeting of targets, timetables and financial provisions and the number of national, regional and global activities carried out in support of national forest and other integrated land-use programmes.
(c) Strengthen political commitments to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests through ministerial engagements,	(c) The number of High-Level Ministerial Segment meetings, including policy dialogues between the ministers and executive heads of

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
action-oriented dialogues and policy formulation related to forests.	organization of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the formulation of policies relating to the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.
(d) Monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments, as well as by regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments.	(d) Establishment of an effective mechanism to monitor, assess and report on progress made.

External factors

Paragraph 9.68

The objectives and expected accomplishments related to the United Nations Forum on Forests are expected to be achieved on the assumption that Governments, international and regional organizations and instruments will give priority to the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles), Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action.

Outputs

Paragraph 9.69

a. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB/XB)

(v) United Nations Forum on Forests: Replace with the following:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the second and third sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports on relevant themes of the Forum's Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2002-2003 and for its high-level ministerial segment (20); background papers for the Forum (6) and information notes for the Bureau of the Forum, including from the four ad hoc expert group meetings listed below (6);

c. Ad hoc expert groups on: financing for sustainable forest management (1); transfer of environmentally sound technology for sustainable forest management (1); the structure, frequency and mechanism of a monitoring, assessment and reporting system on sustainable forest management (1); and

consideration of parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (1);

b. Other substantive outputs (RB/XB)

(i) Recurrent publications. UNFF Newsletter (12);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Strategies for financing sustainable forest management (1); study on the monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable management of forests (1); emerging issues related to forests (1); lessons learned in the implementation of sustainable forest management practices (1);

c. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

(i) Substantive servicing of the meetings of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);

(ii) Liaison with international and regional financial institutions, including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and regional development banks;

(iii) Participation in and provision of substantive support to various expert and major group meetings on forest-related issues in support of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum;

(iv) Special events, including those held during the annual sessions of the Forum;

(v) Participation in inter-agency joint programming exercises in support of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(vi) Representation of the Forum at forest-related international, regional and national meetings;

(vii) Consultations with donor countries and agencies on forest-related issues.

9. The additional requirements for implementing the above programme of work, as explained below, are estimated at $2,250,000 gross as follows: $1,572,800 under section 9, $519,800 under section 27D and $157,400 for section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Section 9, Economic and social affairs

10. Under the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, the United Nations Forum on Forests would initially meet for a period of two weeks annually and the travel expenses for one representative of each member State of the United Nations Forum on Forests that is also a member State of the Commission on Sustainable Development and is participating in a session of the Forum would be paid from the regular budget of the United Nations. In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resource requirements of $119,900 were proposed to provide for such travel; hence additional requirements are not expected to arise for the travel expenses of representatives to attend the second and

third sessions of the Forum. In accordance with current practice, it is envisaged that travel support for representatives of least developed countries not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development to participate in the sessions of the Forum will continue to be provided from available extrabudgetary resources.

11. In accordance with the headquarters principle embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243, the sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests should be held in New York. Conference-servicing costs are estimated on a full-cost basis at $574,000 for one annual second session of the Forum. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, were the second session of the Forum to be held in Costa Rica at the invitation of the Government, any additional cost directly or indirectly involved in holding the meeting in that country will be borne by the host Government in accordance with established practice. The decision to convene the third session in 2003 in Geneva would also constitute an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243. In this particular case, the full cost of one session of the Forum in Geneva would amount to $493,400. These costs are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Provision has been included under that section not only for meetings programmed at the time of preparation of the budget, but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. As a result, no additional resources would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

12. At its organizational session, in February 2001, the United Nations Forum on Forests decided to locate the secretariat of the Forum at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It is expected that the Forum secretariat would operate as a distinct unit reporting directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The Secretary-General in responding to the Forum's decision to locate its secretariat of the UNFF in New York, recalls that one of the working modalities of the Forum called for in operative paragraph 4 (h) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 is the maintenance of close links with the Commission on Sustainable Development, for which the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has servicing responsibilities; hence the decision for placement of the Forum secretariat in the Department.

13. Currently, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests consists of six professional positions, one junior professional officer, and two General Service (Other level) posts funded from various sources as follows: one L-7 (funded by the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests); two D-1s (one each seconded from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and from the United Nations Environment Programme); one P-5 (seconded from the International Tropical Timber Organization); two P-4 (one seconded from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and one from the Centre for International Forestry Research); one junior professional officer (funded by the Government of Finland); and two General Service (Other level) posts (funded from the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Sufficient extrabudgetary resources are available to enable the current staff to continue to operate until the end of 2001. The extrabudgetary resources available as of the date of writing amount to about $1,800,000.

14. Taking into account the scope and substance of the work to be carried out by the Secretariat in the coming biennium, it is proposed that the unit providing assistance and support for the Forum initially comprise one D-2, one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and two General Service (Other level) established posts. It is proposed that these posts be funded from the United Nations regular budget in the biennium 2002-2003. The staff complement of the United Nations Forum on Forests is expected to be strengthened through secondments from international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments as well as voluntary contributions. UNEP and FAO have indicated that they will continue to second staff to the Forum secretariat during the biennium 2002-2003. It is further expected that other member organizations of CPF will provide information on the secondment of their staff to the Forum secretariat. Staff costs below have been estimated at vacancy rates of 50 per cent for the Professional and higher categories and 35 per cent for the General Service category, in accordance with existing practice for new posts.

(a) A total of $754,300 to provide for six posts as follows:

(i) One D-2, Executive Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, who is expected to: (a) establish contacts with government officials at the ministerial level and represent the Department at the Ministerial segments of the Forum sessions; (b) maintain contact with the Permanent Representatives of missions based in New York and interact with members of the Forum Bureau; (c) serve as the principal policy adviser to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on all forest issues related to sustainable development in the implementation of Agenda 21; (d) consult on a regular basis with executive and deputy executive heads of relevant international organizations, particularly members of CPF; heads of other forest-related international and regional organizations, instruments and processes, particularly for critical and emerging issues, Plan of Action and development of strategies for deliberations at the Forum; (e) represent the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and in particular the Forum in high-level inter-agency joint programming exercises as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35; and (f) represent the Forum on a regular basis at ministerial-level meetings on forest-related issues, and meetings of international and regional organizations and instruments;

(ii) One P-5 (Senior Forest Affairs Officer) post to coordinate and provide substantive guidance and inputs in the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other analytical documentation on sustainable forest management policy issues, draft proposals for policy development and coordination for consideration by the Forum;

(iii) One P-4 (Forest Affairs Officer) post to liaise with members of CPF, provide substantive technical support for the cooperative work of the Forum with CPF and act as Secretary to CPF and assist in the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and the servicing of the Forum;

(iv) One P-3 (Forest Affairs Officer) post to assist in the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General by undertaking research, collecting, collating and synthesizing data and information and disseminating information on the activities of the Forum;

(v) Two General Service (Other level) posts to provide the necessary secretarial and administrative services to support the secretariat;

(b) A total of $256,000 for consultants who would provide specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat to undertake studies and prepare documentation in support of the programme of work of the Forum (eight work-months at the P-4 level for each of four topics as follows: financing sustainable forest management; transfer of environmentally sound technology for sustainable forest management; monitoring, assessment and reporting on sustainable forest management; other components of the multi-year programme of work, including emerging issues);

(c) A total of $253,600 for four expert group meetings (2 meetings each year consisting of 15 experts at each meeting, 3 from each of the 5 regions) on: the structure, frequency and mechanism of a monitoring, assessment and reporting system on sustainable forest management; financing for sustainable forest management; transfer of environmentally sound technology for sustainable forest management; and consideration of parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests;

(d) A total of $232,300 for travel of staff to do the following: (i) attend the third session of the Forum in Geneva; (ii) attend meetings of intergovernmental bodies and conferences of parties of conventions relevant to forest issues; (iii) participate in consultation with countries and other major players in the area of sustainable forest management; (iv) attend meetings of governmental and non-governmental organizations on issues related to sustainable forest management; (v) provide policy advice and undertake consultations with countries in support of the multi-year programme of work and the Plan of Action; (vi) participate in consultations with regional commissions, FAO, UNEP, the World Bank, United Nations agencies in Geneva, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Centre for International Forestry Research and other relevant international and regional organizations; (vii) attend the meetings of CPF, established in April 2001 in Rome to provide guidance and to facilitate and promote coordinated and cooperative action, including joint programming; and (viii) submit coordinated proposals to respective governing bodies of the member organizations and facilitate donor coordination;

(e) A total of $44,200 for general operating expenses, such as rental of office equipment, communications, a Local Area Network, telephone and optical disc connections and office automation and equipment maintenance;

(f) A total of $5,400 for supplies and materials required by the Forum secretariat;

(g) A total of $27,000 to replace office automation equipment.

Section 27D, Office of Central Support Services

15. The amount of $519,800 is required for central support services, of which $238,000 would provide for non-recurrent costs related to office alterations and acquisition of furniture and fixtures, and $281,800 recurrent costs to cover rental of premises.

Section 32, Staff assessment and income section 1, Income from staff assessment

16. The amount of $157,400 is needed to provide for staff assessment for the six new posts under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Decision 2001/316

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

17. In paragraph (a) of its decision 2001/316 of 26 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council decided to convene the first annual session of the Forum at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 17 May 2002, without prejudice to any future venue of the Forum.

18. Economic and Social Council decision 2001/316 relates to section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 22)). In the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, it was assumed that the Forum would be meeting in Geneva and no resources were provided for travel of staff to New York to service the Forum and for the differential cost of travel for the members of the Forum between Geneva and New York. An oral statement was made on the programme budget implications of that decision at the time of the Council's review of that decision. The additional requirements under section 22, Human rights, are estimated at $54,800 as follows:

(a) A total of $44,000 for the differential cost of travel and daily subsistence allowance between New York and Geneva for 16 members of the Forum to attend the meeting in New York;

(b) A total of $10,800 for travel of two staff members to New York to assist the Forum in its deliberations.

E/2001/L.8

Extract from the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-fifth session

19. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights submitted to the Economic and Social Council the outcome of the review of the methods of work of the Committee in document E/2001/L.8.

20. It will be recalled that, by decision 1999/287 of 30 July 1999, the Council approved the holding of two additional three-week extraordinary sessions of the

Committee, as well as respective pre-sessional working groups of one week's duration during 2000 and 2001, provided additional funding was made available, requested that those sessions be entirely used for the consideration of reports of the States parties in order to reduce the backlog of reports, and requested the Committee to consider ways and means to improve the efficiency of its working methods and to report to the Council in 2001 on the actions taken in that regard.

21. In response to the request by the Economic and Social Council the Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, held from 23 April to 11 May 2001, discussed a number of improvements on its working methods with a view to dealing more effectively with the consideration of State party's reports at its future sessions. As a result, the Committee has adopted revised methods on a provisional basis, pending evaluation of the new procedures later in the year, in time for the annual report to be submitted in December 2001. As a result of the review of its methods of work, the Committee is of the opinion that, for an experimental period of two years, the Committee should hold, as in the past, only two sessions per year, one in April/May and one in November/December.

22. The extract from the report of the Committee relates to section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 22). In paragraph 22.19 of the proposed budget, provisions were made for two additional three-week sessions as well as the related meetings of the pre-sessional working group, based on the assumption that the mandate provided by decision 1999/287 would continue for the biennium 2002-2003.

23. The programme budget implications of the extract from the report of the Committee were submitted to the Economic and Social Council in document E/2001/L.18. The reduction in costs under section 22, Human rights, resulting from that decision was estimated at $340,800 as follows:

(a) A reduction of $323,200 for travel and daily subsistence allowance for 18 members of the Committee;

(b) A reduction of $17,600 for daily subsistence allowance for five members of the pre-sessional working group.

24. In addition, the revised schedule of meetings of the Committee would reflect lower requirements of $1,592,000 per biennium for conference servicing (at full cost). In line with the established methodology for budgeting conference services, the total provision for section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, will be determined only after the adoption of the calendar of conferences for the biennium 2002-2003 and in principle would be unaffected by the above amendment of the schedule of meetings.

Conclusions

25. **In summary, the implications of Economic and Social Council decisions 2001/293 and 2001/316 and the extract from the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-fifth session (E/2001/L.8) would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, section 27D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 32, Staff assessment, and a net reduction in requirements under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. No provisions were made under sections 9 or 27D of the**

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 to cover the additional requirements, and the reductions under section 22 would not fully offset the additional requirements under sections 9 and 27D.

26. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be able to be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

27. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 9 and 27D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.

28. Consequently, a net additional provision of $1,964,000 would be required over and above the resources proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require increases and decreases in appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003 as follows:

Section 9, Economic and social affairs	$1 572 800
Section 22, Human rights	($286 000)
Section 27D, Office of Central Support Services	$519 800
Section 32, Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment)	$157 400
Total	$1 964 000

Annex

Cost estimates of additional activities to be financed from within the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[a]

Economic and Social Council decisions		*Budget section*	*Additional requirements (in United States dollars)*	
			Substantive	*Conference services (sect. 2)*
2001/240	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its tenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission	14		163 100
2001/317	The Social Forum (Commission on Human Rights decision 2001/103)	22		185 000
2001/279	Right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Commission on Human Rights decision 2001/105)	22		64 000
2001/316	Creation of a pre-sessional working group on the administration of justice of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Commission on Human Rights decision 2001/106)	22		127 000
2001/259	The right to food (Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/25)	22	7 600	
2001/296	Resumed 2001 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	9		344 400
2001/317	Work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/60)	22	2 300	
Total			**9 900**	**883 500**

[a] The estimates of the cost of the additional activities requested by the Commission on Human Rights relating to perennial activities would be financed from the existing provisions and, therefore, such costs are not included in this table.